

ALTERNARIA LEAF SPOT OF SCHEFFLERA

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A serious leaf spot disease of *Brassaia* (*Schefflera*) *actinophylla* Endl. has been described by Miller(1). It is caused by a species of *Alternaria*, tentatively named *A. actinophylla*. Crowding of plants, high humidity and overhead watering can cause a rapid buildup of the disease, especially on younger plants.

**SYMPTOMS.** Lesions begin as circular, brown necrotic spots, usually surrounded by a yellow halo (Fig. 1A) which may enlarge up to 35 mm in diameter (Fig. 1B). Watersoaking may occur around some of the leaf spots. The dark brown lesions may coalesce to infect a large portion of the leaf area (Fig. 1C). Elongated lesions may occur on the petioles and infected leaves drop from the plant.

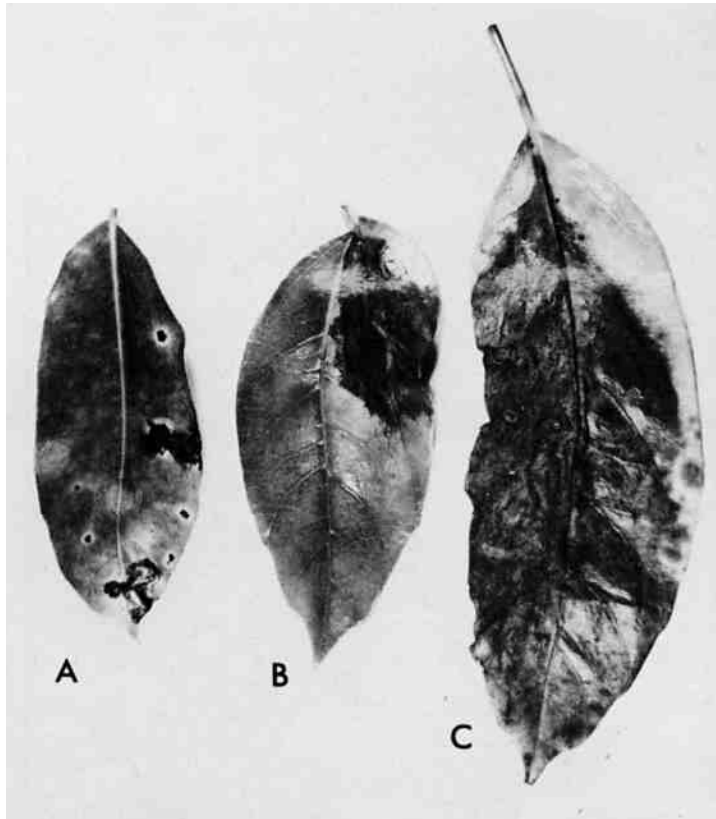


Fig. 1. *Schefflera* leaves infected with *Alternaria actinophylla* showing various stages of disease development.

CONTROL. Spraying with zineb on a regular 7-14 day schedule provides control of this fungus leaf spot. Separating plants to allow better air circulation and avoiding overhead watering when possible also help retard disease development.

#### Literature Cited

1. Miller, H. N. 1957. An *Alternaria* leaf spot of Schefflera actinophylla. *Phytopathology* 47:529 (Abstr.).